

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument comprising:

a sounding section provided in a substantial central portion of a body of said electronic musical instrument corresponding to a sound hole of a stringed musical instrument;

a plurality of performance operators provided on the body for performing tone-generation instructing operation corresponding to operation of a string on the stringed musical instrument;

a light emitting section provided in proximity to said performance operators and in a position corresponding to said sounding section, wherein the light emitting section is so dimensioned as to visually highlight a performance operation on said performance operators;

a light emission control section that controls light emission of said light emitting section; and  
a tone generating processing section that generates a tone through said sounding section in response to operation of any one of said performance operators.

Claim 2 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said light emission control section controls the light emission of said light emitting section in accordance with a performance tempo.

Claim 3 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said light emission control section controls the light emission of said light emitting section in accordance with a state of operation, by a human operator, of said performance operator.

Claim 4 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 which is constructed by imitating a natural stringed musical instrument.

Claim 5 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 4 wherein the natural stringed musical instrument is any one of a ukulele, guitar and mandolin.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said performance operators include a plurality of linear members imitating strings of the stringed musical instrument.

Claim 8 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sounding section has a shape similar to a shape of the sound hole of the stringed musical instrument.

Claim 9 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises an automatic performance section, and wherein said light emission control section controls the light emission of said light emitting section in accordance with an automatic performance by said automatic performance section.

Claim 10 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said light emission control section is capable of variably controlling any one of color, luminance and brightness of light emitted by said light emitting section.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument comprising:

a sounding section provided in a portion corresponding to a sound hole of a stringed musical instrument;

a plurality of performance operators provided for performing tone-generation instructing operation corresponding to operation of a string on the stringed musical instrument;

a light emitting section provided in a continuous shape along an outer periphery of said sounding section, wherein the light emitting section is so dimensioned as to visually highlight a performance operation on said performance operators;

a light emission control section that controls light emission of said light emitting section; and

a tone generating processing section that generates a tone through said sounding section in response to operation of any one of said performance operators.

Claim 12 (original): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 11 wherein said performance operators are provided in proximity to said light emitting section.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A string-instrument type electronic musical instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein said light emitting section is provided in a continuous ring shape along an outer periphery of said sounding section.